

**EXHIBIT** 10**DATE** 2/3/2011**AARP Montana**
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February 4, 2011

TO: Members of the Joint Appropriations on General Government Subcommittee
From: Roxanne Lincoln, Volunteer Advocate for AARP Montana
Re: Support for Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the record I am Roxanne Lincoln, a volunteer advocate for AARP Montana, an organization with over 155,000 members in this state. AARP believes that essential energy services should be affordable and available to all households. We support funding being provided to Low-Income Energy Assistance Program or LIEAP.

In 2009 MT LIEAP provided roughly 22,000 households with LIEAP financial assistance, with 27% of the recipients being the elderly. However, there were 141,282 eligible households in the state. The national average household energy costs rose 43% between 2001-2006 and costs are continuing to rise. With harsh winters and sky rocketing oil prices, many cannot afford to pay their substantial energy bill. LIEAP has helped thousands stay warm each winter. Another program inside LIEAP, The Weatherization Program, can reduce home energy costs by 21% over the year. Montana has weatherized between 200 and 300 homes a year. While many Montanans are continuing to struggle with economic hardships due to the recession, LIEAP has helped many stay warm.

No one should have to choose between heating their home and paying for food. LIEAP is a necessary program for thousands in Montana and many more are in need of assistance. AARP urges you to support funding for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program.